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Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 DHA-02 ORM-01 EB-07 ISO-00 IO-10 EA-07

/107 W
---------- 021198
P R 270843Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3279
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSTY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
ORUQMRA/AMEMBASSY JIDDA 222
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MOGADISCIO 1380

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SO, US, KS, AID
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SIAD SEPTEMBER 24

REFS: A) STATE 217222 B) MOGADISCIO 1369

1. FOLLOWING 11 DAY WAIT FOR APPOINTMENT WITH SIAD, CHIEF OF PROTOCOL PHONED SEPT 24 STATING PRESIDENT WOULD SEE ME IN 15 MINUTES AT 1234 PROBABLY FOR 20 MINUTES (NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR HAD 1215 APPOINTMENT PRESENT SIAD WITH NIGERIAN GRANT AID CHECK FOR $ ONE MILLION). MEETING WITH RELAXED (KHAKI PANTS, BEDROOM SLIPPERS AND SPORT SHIRT) BUT EXHAUSTED SIAD COMMENCED WITH USUAL PLEASANTRIES, FOLLOWED BY 90 MINUTE MONOLOGUE.

2. SIAD REVIEWED FIRST DECADE OF GSDR INDEPENDENCE AND PROGRESS MADE SINCE REVOLUTION (MOST OF WHICH SUBJECT PREVIOUS DETAILED REPORTING AND NOT BEING REPEATED) -- ADMITTING AT SEVERAL POINTS
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THAT HE TALKED TOO MUCH BUT I WOULD HAVE MY TURN.

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3. DISCUSSING INTERRUPTION USAID USAID SIAD SAID, "WHY DID YOU PUSH ME TO BECOME A STOOGE?" I REPLIED, "WHAT PUSH, WHOSE STOOGE?" SAID, EVADING DIRECT ANSWER AND NOT MENTIONING ANY NAMES, SAID: "YOU KNOW PRECISELY*" CONTINUING, "I HAVE STUDIED YOUR REVOLUTION; I APPRECIATE AMERICA'S GENEROSITY AND RESPECT FOR AFRICAN PEOPLE, AND KNOW HISTORY YOUR AFRICAN RELATIONS SINCE WORLD WAR II, BUT I FAIL UNDERSTAND YOUR GOVERNMENT'S POLICY SUPPLYING MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO MY NEIGHBORS WHOSE GOVERNMENTS HAVE HISTORY OF CORRUPTION AND LACK CONCERN FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES. I HAVE NEVER ASKED FOR ASSISTANCE. RECENTLY A MESSENGER DELIVERED ME BAG FULL OF INTERNATIONAL CURRENCY -- THIS HAPPENS FREQUENTLY -- I SENT HIM

AWAY. I CANNOT BE BRIBED* I'M DEDICATED TO INSURING ALL DROUGHT ASSISTANCE FOR SOMALIA WILL REACH DESTITUTE NOMADS. I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED IN CHAD AND NIGER AND ALSO KNOW THOSE AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE WHO DENOUNCE APARTHEID IN SA WHILE PERMITTING DISCRIMINATION IN THEIR OWN SOCIETIES. I ASSURE YOU THAT THIS IS NOT CASE IN SOMALIA.

I DON'T ALLOW IT. YOU HAVE PROBABLY SEEN IN YOUR FILES THAT I FIRED 60 FULLY-QUALIFIED AND TECHNICALLY-CAPABLE CIVIL SERVANTS WHO FAILED TO CARRY OUT THE BASIC POLICIES OF MY GOVERNMENT." (MOGADISCIO A-62, JUNE22).

4. CHANGING SUBJECT, MOVING TO EDGE HIS CHAIR, AND IMPULSIVELY TAK-ING MY FOREARMS IN HIS HANDS, SIAD SAID, "WHEN I MET WITH YOUR PRESIDENT A YEAR AGO I PROBABLY SPOKE TOO MUCH AND TOO FORCEFULLY, BUT I SPOKE WITH MY BRAIN AND NOT MY EMOTIONS. I TOLD HIM THE TRUTH AND, AS I HAVE TOLD YOU BEFORE, I HAVE A NAVAL FACILITY IN BERBERA BUT IT'S MINE* OF COURSE I USED RUSSIAN HELP IN BUILDING IT. DO YOU WANT TO SEE BERBERA?" I REPLIED, "I LOOK FORWARD TO VISITING EVERY REGION IN SOMALI BUT AS YOU KNOW THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS IS LIMITED TO 40 KILOMETERS FROM MOGADISCIO." SAID: "I'LL TAKE YOU TO BERBERA MYSELF". AMB: "ANYTIME*" SIAD: "THERE ARE AMERICAN PEOPLE WHO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND SOMALIA. I THINK YOUR PRESIDENT UNDERSTANDS WHAT I AM STRIVING FOR BUT I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOUR MR. SCHESLINGER HAS TO SEND PHOTOGRAPHS TO MY AFRICAN BROTHERS AND USE THEM TO MISINTERPRET WHAT I TOLD YOUR PRESIDENT."

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5. ABRUPTLY TURNING TO ANOTHER SUBJECT SIAD ASKED WHETHER I HAD SEEN ANY OF THE REFUGEE CAMPS. I TOLD HIM THAT MFA OFFICIALS HAD PLANS TO TAKE ALL THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS ON A TOUR OF CAMPS BUT SO FAR ONLY ARAB AMBASSADORS HAD BEEN INVITED. SIAD CONTINUING: "NOMADS ARE MY MAJOR PROBLEM; EIGHTY PERCENT ARE LIVING AS THEY DID 600 YEARS AGO. OUR CLANS AND TRIBES ARE SMALL INEFFICIENT BUSI-NESSES FIGHTING FOR SCRAPS. I CHOSE SOCIALISM AS THE MOST EFFICIENT WAY TO BREAK THIS CYCLE. YOU MAY NOT LIKE OUR SAY" -- I SEIZED MY

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TURN, INTERJECTING THAT ONE OF OUR MAJOR CONCERNS WAS THAT SOMALIA
OBTAINED DEVELOPMENT FOR ITS POPLE. THE GSDR CHOICE OF GOVERNMENT
WAS ITS OWN CONCERN. WE ALSO HAD TO IDENTIFY CLEARLY, OUR OWN
INTERESTS IN SOMALIA AND THEN WORK TOWARDS MUTUAL ACCOMMODATION. IN
SO DOING WE HAD NO RPT NO DESIRE FOR ANY IDEOLOGICAL CONFRONTATION,
AND AS FAR AS I WAS PERSONALLY CONCERNED SOMALIAN WAYS WERE FOR
SOMALIANS. CONTINUING, I TOLD SIAD MY ANTENNAE ARE OUT BUT I HOPED
THAT TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS WOULD BE LIFTED YO THAT I COULD INTERPRET
CLEARLY AND ACCURATELY THE SITUATION IN SOMALIA. SIAD REPLIED, "I
KNOW WE ARE
ACCUSED OF BEING SUSPICIOUS PEOPLE. BASICALLY WE'RE NOT
-- BUT WE ARE NERVOUS". I ASKED HIM TO EXPLAIN. SIAD: "YOU HAVE
TO UNDERSTAND I HAVE SOME FANATICS IN THE SRC AND ELSEWHERE. THEY
GO TOO FAR. UNLIKE YOU AND I, WHEN WE FIGHT WITH OUR WIVES WE
STOP IT, GO AWAY FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS AND IT'S OVER. I TRY TO
DO THE SAME THING WITH MY HOT-HEADS. PLEASE UNDERSTAND, IN CARRYING
OUT MY POLICIES MANY EXAGGERATE - EVEN I EXAGGERATE -- LOOKING
AT HIS CLOTHES AND CONTINUING -- I SLEPT TWO HOURS IN TWO DAYS:
THIS IS NO GOOD BUT I HAVE AN OBJECTIVE, A GOAL, AND THAT IS TO
CHANGE THE NOMADIC WAY OF LIFE; IT TAKES DEDICATION AND DISCIPLINED
WORK WHICH LEAVES LITTLE TIME TO SEE DIPLOMATS."

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 DHA-02 ORM-01 EB-07 EA-07 IO-10

/107 W
---------- 021024
P R 270843Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3280
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MOGADISCIO 1380

6. I INTERRUPTED AT THIS POINT TO INFORM SIAD OF OUR DECISION TO RESUME AID TO SOMALIA. THE PRESIDENT, SITTING BACK IN HIS CHAIR, THANKED ME, STATING THIS WAS INDEED GOOD NEWS AND HE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF I WOULD CONFIRM THIS BY LETTER SO THAT HE COULD SHOW IT TO CERTAIN OF HIS SRC MEMBERS (LETTER DELIVERED). I TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT I WELCOMED THE OPPORTUNITY OF MEETING APPROPRIATE

OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS DETAILS. I THEN BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT OF THE SECRETARY'F MIDDLE EAST SPEECH (SEPTEL) AND BRIEFLY RAISED THE KOREAN QUESTION BEFORE THE 30TH GA NOTING THAT I HAD BEEN WAITING FOR SEVERAL DAYS TO SEE HIS BROTHER, ABDULRAHMAN JAMA BARRE (DG-MFA). SIAD, SHOWING NO INCLINATION TO BECOME ENGAGED IN THE KOREAN QUESTION, ROSE, ESCORTED ME TO MY CAR, APOLOGIZING TO WAITING NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR. THE MEETING ENDED AT 1430.

COMMENT: SIAD'S PREFERENCE FOR TALKING IS WELL-KNOWN TO MOST SOMALI WATCHERS. FOR THE MOST RECENT ON-THE-SCENE-SIAD LISTENER CONFIDENTIAL

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TO DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS BASED ON THREE MEETINS WOULD BE PRESUMPTIOUS. MY IMPRESSIONS, HOWEVER, ARE OF A LEADER WHO IS DEDUCATED SINCERELY TO LEADING THE NOMADS INTO THE 20TH CENTURY AND WILL ACCEPT AID FROM THOSE DONORS WILLING TO RESPECT SOMALI SOVEREIGNTY. WHETHER HIS REMARKS ABOUT BEING PUSHED INTO BEING A STOOGE COUPLED WITH HIS STORY OF NOT BEING OPEN TO BRIBERY WERE THOSE OF A TIRED MAN OR CALCULATED THEATRE REMAIN FOR LATER JUDGEMENT. BUT FROM WHAT LITTLE I KNOW OF HIS PERSONAL LIFE-STYLE IT WILL TAKE A LOT MORE THAN A SECRET SWISS BANK ACCOUNT TO ALTER HIS PRESENT USSR RELATIONSHIP.
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